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To: [Leadership Assistant Administrators](#); [Leadership Associate Administrators](#); [Leadership Deputy Assistant Administrators](#); [Leadership Deputy Associate Administrators](#); [Leadership Deputy Regional Administrators](#); [Leadership Regional Administrators](#); [Regional FOIA Officers](#); [Deputy Regional Counsels](#); [Joffe, Brian](#); [FOIA Coordinators, Officers, and Alternates](#); [Regional Counsels](#)
Cc: [Brazauskas, Joseph](#); [Grantham, Nancy](#); [Richardson, RobinH](#); [White, Elizabeth](#); [Packard, Elise](#); [Siciliano, CarolAnn](#); [OGC NFO](#); [Hoverman, Taylor](#); [Wiley, Katharine](#); [Grzegozewski, Nicholas](#); [Payne, James \(Jim\)](#); [Fotouhi, David](#); [Gross, Louann](#); [Vendinello, Lynn](#)
Subject: January 2021 EPA FOIA Backlog Report
Date: Thursday, January 7, 2021 7:04:56 AM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

Happy New Year, Colleagues!

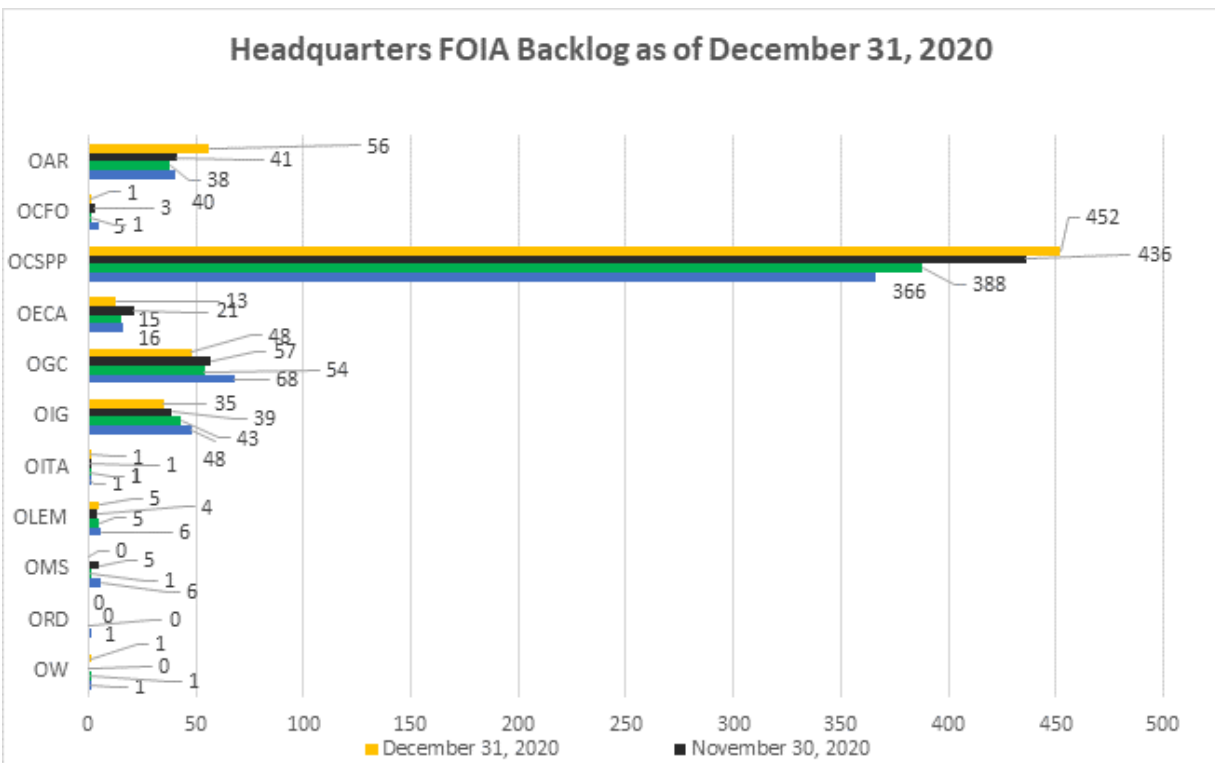
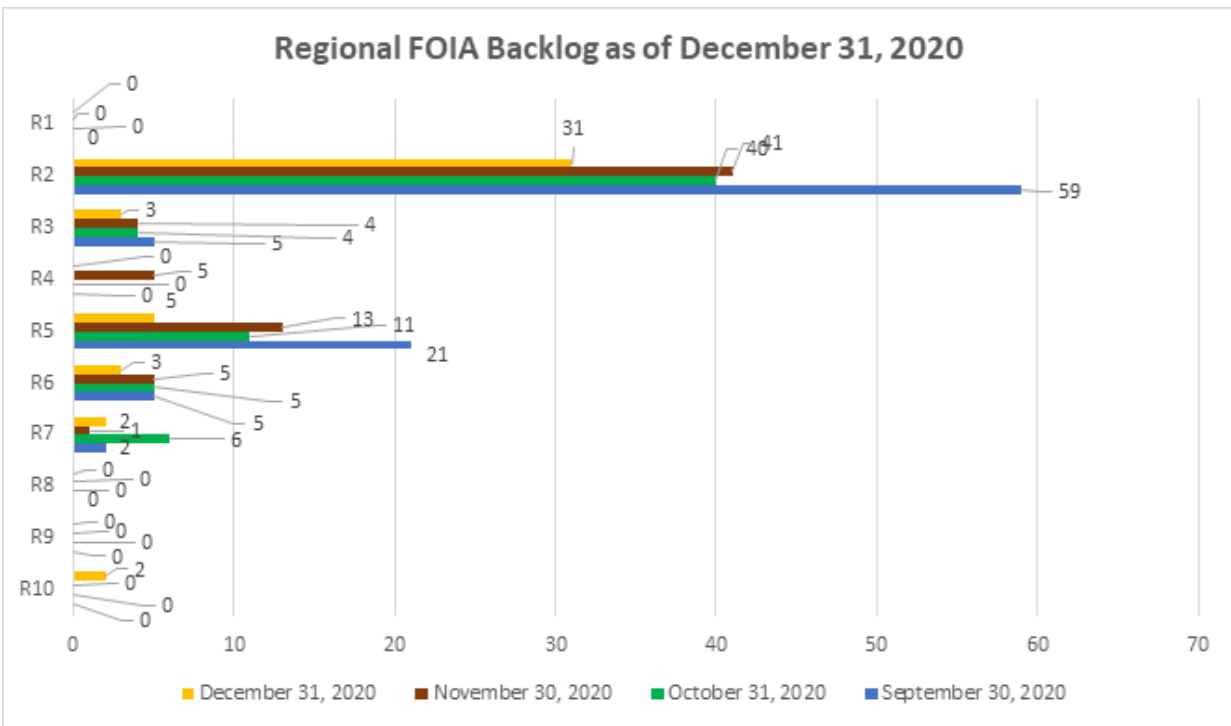
The Agency's backlog of overdue FOIA requests went down slightly in December 2020. Overall, the Agency's backlog of overdue FOIA requests dropped to 1,409 at the end of December down from 1,427 at the end of November. This one month decrease is positive news, although it did not erase the prior two month's increases. Thus, the backlog went up in the first quarter of this fiscal year.

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Congratulations to ORD, OMS and Regions 1, 4, 8, and 9, who had no backlog of overdue FOIA requests at the end of December 2020. Also, congratulations to Regions 2 and 5, and OGC, who reduced their backlog the most this month.

End of November Overdue FOIA Data

The charts below show the number of overdue FOIA requests in EPA headquarters program offices and the regions at the end of the most recent four months: December, November, October, and September 2020. The Office of the Administrator's backlog stayed the same – 751 – at the end of December as it was at the end of November 2020.



For this report, overdue FOIA request is defined as a FOIA request pending for more than 20 working days as of the end of the month or beyond an applicable due date extension that has been documented in FOIAonline (by agreement, proper notice of unusual circumstances, or notice of clock stoppage for clarification or fee assurances that is recorded as a due date extension). Please note that this definition of the backlog is different from the definition required for the Agency's annual report to the Department of Justice, which does not take into account unusual circumstances or

other statutorily authorized due date extensions documented in the FOIAonline tracking system.

The September data in this report was generated from FOIAonline on October 2, 2020, and the October data on November 2, and the November data on December 1, and the December data on January 4, 2021. If you would like to discuss the data, what additional data you would like to see reported, or to discuss ideas on how we can more rapidly reduce the Agency's FOIA backlog and more effectively meet the Agency's FOIA responsibility, please contact me at epp.timothy@epa.gov or at (202) 564-2830.

Tim

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